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Weather

TODAY
HIGH 72°

TONIGHT
LOW 46°

TOMORROW
HIGH 77°

Inside ▶▶▶

SPORTS



After getting a potential win streak cut short by The Citadel, the Gamecocks get ready to play Auburn this weekend.

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THE MIX



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While protests of the past may have been huge-scale, they may not be the best way to get change today.

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RICHARD WOOD

Third-year history student

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Sanford awards professor

Bockman receives Order of the Palmetto for lifetime service

Liz Segrist
NEWS EDITOR

Law School Adjunct Professor Robert Bockman received the prestigious Order of the Palmetto Award Thursday afternoon at the Law School Auditorium.

S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Hofer Toal presented the award to a very surprised Bockman, third-year law student Mac McQuillin said, as a packed room looked on.

"I was absolutely surprised," Bockman said. "I had no idea that the event would be so large or that I'd be receiving such a huge honor. For me, it was just a pure honor to receive this award."

"The Order of the Palmetto is the state's highest civilian honor awarded for extraordinary lifetime achievement and service to the state and nation. It is an once-in-a-lifetime award," according to an e-mail sent to law students prior to the event.

Bockman thought he was only speaking on "The Spirit of the Law School — For Three Years or for Life?," a lecture hosted by the USC Moot Court Bar and the South Carolina Law Review. Bockman, who has been an USC professor since 1993, is also a practicing administra-

tive litigation and appellate advocacy lawyer in South Carolina. USC law students nominated Bockman for the award, which was then approved by Gov. Sanford.

"During my tenure at the law school, I have had the opportunity to observe a man who embodies the ideals of achievement and service in the state and throughout the country in all aspects of his life," McQuillin wrote in his nomination letter for Bockman to Gov. Sanford. "Whether it was in front of the Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court or with students in his Appellate Advocacy class, Mr. Bockman instills a sense of pride in our State and its legal profession. Mr. Bockman's sense of professionalism and civility has affected students, lawyers and judges throughout the state and the country."

Law students Jason Luther and Will Dillard also wrote letters of nomination for Bockman.

Bockman said despite hard economic times, he still advises future and current law students to "come with an open mind, a spirit of acceptance and a willingness to meet a challenging academic curriculum."

"At a prestigious law school such as ours, learning is a cooperative and supportive process," Bockman said. "Each student should know that they are learning a profession that can be a great service to both our state and our society. It's important to



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

State Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean Toal awards the Order of the Palmetto to Law Professor Robert Bockman.

look toward the future and the part you could play in it."

Bockman said he has known Toal for nearly 34 years.

"I'd known her and argued for many cases in front of her," Bockman said. "She's someone who I have respected and admired for many years, as well as one of my friends. My daughter was a law clerk for her as well before she died in an automobile accident."

Bockman lost his daughter Kate due to a car accident six months ago today, McQuillin said.

"This is a good picture of someone who had a hard time, but was still able to maintain a positive influence on the people around him," McQuillin said. "Even a month after his daughter died, he was still able to excite

us about law school and keep us upbeat."

Bockman received his law degree at the University of Georgia in 1975. He then practiced law in Raleigh until 1981, at which time he came back to S.C. and has been practicing law here ever since. In 2008, he was awarded the "Best Attorneys in America 2008" award.

Bockman also serves full time as the USC Moot Court faculty advisor, the USC Mock Trial team faculty advisor, and the USC Advocacy Program faculty advisor, as well as a part-time professor with an additional honors course he teaches in the fall.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

TEACH-IN EXPLAINS CLIMATE ISSUES

Environmental forum aims to educate students, promote activism on global changes

Meagean Dugger
STAFF WRITER

USC hosts its first ever "Teach-In on Climate Change" events Thursday and today to inform university students on current environmental issue such as climate change, and to promote sustainable solutions. Teach-In on Climate Change is part of a national movement for university and community leaders to address environmental topics.

The Teach-In event is a collaborative effort from Mayor Bob Coble, university President Harris Pastides, concerned faculty members, student organizations and public professionals.

The event, organized by Green Quad and the university's Student Environmental Committee, informs university students on the dangers and effects of global climate change and promotes activism within the student body.

Faculty Principal for Green Quad David Whiteman said he believes the event promotes positive change.

"Our staff has been organizing with students' groups, and we're impressed we've gotten so much participation from students, President Pastides, the mayor and organizations such as the Sierra Club," Whiteman said.



Dustin Glendinning / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Third-year international business student Christine Hauer moderates Thursday.

The Sierra Club's journalism interns showcased their work and the importance of their campaigns toward youth Thursday in Green Quad's Learning Center.

"I think it's important to focus on the environment the week before Earth Day," said Rachael Taft, a Sierra Club member and fourth-year advertising student.

Thomas Chandler of the Green Quad Learning Center of Sustainable Futures said the entire event has been a success so far and he said he hopes it will continue in the future.

"I don't know if I would want to limit events to environmental issues, but we definitely want to continue the idea of involving professors and students on these issues," Chandler said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksportspage@sc.edu

Pastides, Coble host Teach-in Breakfast

President Harris Pastides and Mayor Bob Coble will hold a panel discussion, "The Impacts of Climate Change in South Carolina: Present and Future," today at 8 a.m. in the Learning Center of the Green Quad.

- John Clark, the S.C. Energy Office director
- Dr. Greg Carbone, geography professor and climate change expert
- Frank Knapp, the S.C. Small Business Chamber of Commerce co-founder
- Sonya Duhé, journalism associate professor and environmental topics and media expert
- Ron Wilson, the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association executive board member
- Sara Tansey, a third-year education, linguistic and speech and communication disorders student and Southern Energy Network organizer
- Moderator Carey Chambliss, the S.C. Sierra Club lobbyist, Conversation Voters and Wildlife Federation

For more information, contact Thomas Chandler at (803) 777-6400 or e-mail him at teachinusc@gmail.com.

— Information from sc.edu
— Compiled by News Editor Liz Segrist

Senate committee changes little in budget

Despite hearing debates, finances remain similar to previous year

Josh Dawsey
STAFF WRITER

After an hour of discussion, the Senate Finance Committee essentially kept the organization's budget the same during a Thursday night hearing in the Russell House.

But it wasn't without heated consideration.

Whether or not Student Government should expand its executive discretionary fund, as well as whether \$4,000 should be allocated for office supplies in the upcoming year, dominated discussion at the hearing.

The meeting was for senators as well as other members of the public to ask questions about how the body plans to spend its \$108,000 in state allocations.

Sen. Matt Ungar, who attended the meeting to voice

concerns, questioned a few of the line item expenditures, especially the budget proposal to spend \$4,000 on office supplies.

"Do we really want to spend more than 10 percent of our allocations on office supplies?" the second-year public relations student questioned.

But SG Treasurer Ebbie Yazdani, a second-year history student, said just because SG gives itself a certain amount for office supplies, it doesn't mean that it must use every

penny.

"Of course, the idea is to spend as little as possible," Yazdani said. "But it would be worse to only allocate \$1,000 and not have the money for office supplies when something goes wrong."

Yazdani and the committee's chairman Kevin Burke both said if SG doesn't spend the \$4,000 on office supplies, the money can be re-allocated to other projects within the office.

BUDGET • 4

Interview program gives tips

Company equips students with necessary skills for success in job search

Hunter Hardinge
STAFF WRITER

Brent Peterson, founder of the Interview Angel, created a company that aims to help students and graduates to get jobs by improving their interviewing skills.



PETERSON

"The purpose of the company is to help all job seekers take proper action to share their value and fulfill their professional goals," according to the Web site. Peterson said it's especially important to know how to interview well during these economic times.

Q: When was this company first started?

A: I first started this company, Interview Angel, in January of this year. We are located in Ashland, Va., but we send and help people all over the country.

Q: Why did you start a company helping students and adults on interviewing skills?

A: I was looking for a way and a product to help my friends and family members get the job they deserved. I wanted them to go into the interview with value. Now especially it is even more important to know how to present oneself.

Q: What are some of the problems that students and adults usually run into during the interview?

A: The number one mistake people make is lack of preparation. They fail to understand that preparing the night of or even seconds before is not the right way. Also people fail to show gratitude at the end. I read only 25 percent of people actually send thank you notes anymore. It's the little things that count and thanking an employer for spending time with you is important. Another mistake people make is they forget they need to be a good storyteller. Everyone loves a good storyteller and in order to effectively communicate what you will bring to the table you need to be able to tell your story. Also please do not ramble on. Employers hate this. It's not what you say. It's how you say it.

Q: What then are some tips that students can use to avoid these problems?

A: First of all, you need to prepare. If you don't, it really

INTERVIEW • 4



CAROLINA BRIEFS

- There will be a talk on “Strategies and representations of masculinity in contemporary Brazilian fiction,” by Idelber Avelar, a Latin American Studies professor at Tulane University today at 3:30 p.m. in the Humanities Classroom Building, Room 201.
- The School of Music invites everyone to the final concert of the Chamber Innovista Series, with performances by USC School of Music Faculty April 19 at 3 p.m. in the School of Music Recital Hall. For ticket information, call (803) 576-5763.
- AEPi will be hosting a Brotherhood Auction at Jillian’s in the Vista April 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. All the proceeds will go to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in connection with Darfur. For more information on the cause, visit <http://www.ushmm.org>.
- Carolina Dining Services urges everyone to buy a HUNGER HEART for \$1 when one eats at one of the on-campus dining restaurants. All proceeds from the Hungry Heart campaign will go to Harvest Hope to buy food for the Midlands community. The Hungry Heart campaign runs April 8 to 24. For more information, contact Carolina Dining Services at (803) 777-4161.
- Have a Campus Wellness staff member come to your department/office to conduct free blood pressure and body fat screenings for you and your colleagues. A minimum of six people are required to schedule a screening. Just fill out a request form online, fax to (803) 777-6250 and a Campus Wellness staff member will contact you within 24 hours to schedule your screening.

WEIRD NEWS OF THE Week

HILLSDALE, Mich. — Michigan’s college-student mayor is ready to move on. Michael Sessions was 18 when he won a 2005 write-in campaign in Hillsdale, a city of 8,200 located 85 miles southwest of Detroit. The 21-year-old announced Tuesday he won’t seek re-election because he will receive his degree from Hillsdale College in 2010 and his career plans may prevent him from completing a second four-year term. Sessions registered to vote one day after his 18th birthday in September 2005 and signed up as a write-in candidate the day after that. He financed his campaign with \$700 earned by working at a french fry wagon at local fairs and carnivals. After defeating the incumbent by two votes, Sessions appeared on national news programs and on the “Late Show with David Letterman.”

BELLMORE, N.Y. — A stolen \$3,000 Chihuahua puppy has been returned to a Long Island pet store with an apologetic note. Nassau County police said they haven’t identified the man who took the 14-week-old dog back Tuesday to Worldwide Puppies & Kittens in Bellmore, just east of New York City. Store manager Christina Ingoglia said the man ran away after dropping off the pup in a shoe box. She said he left a note saying the puppy’s abductors were sorry they stole it and didn’t have the money to buy it.

CONOVER, N.C. — A gross video posted on YouTube showing a Domino’s Pizza worker stuffing cheese up his nostril and waving salami under his rear end as he is making sandwiches has led to charges against him and a co-worker who recorded him, authorities said Wednesday. Kristy Lynn Hammonds, 31, of Taylorsville and Michael Anthony Setzer, 32, of Conover are each charged with distributing prohibited foods. In the video, Setzer is making sandwiches while a giggling Hammonds narrates and urges him to “do it again, do it again” in putting the cheese up his nose. It appears he threw some of the cheese in the garbage but some went on a sandwich. Setzer said: “This is Michael’s special Italian sandwich.” Hammonds said the sandwiches were meant to be delivered soon to customers and that “little did they know that the cheese was in his nose.” Domino’s spokesman Tim McIntyre said the workers were fired and there is no evidence any of the tampered foods were served to customers.

— Information from The Associated Press

PIC OF THE DAY



David Walters / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Biscuit House, across the street from Williams-Brice Stadium, will be closing its doors for 211 days because USC purchased the land. Some USC students will miss this breakfast.

Local

A South Carolina high school student on Thursday asked the state’s highest court to quickly clear the way for millions of federal stimulus dollars to flow to schools by ending Gov. Mark Sanford’s ability to decline the money.

The lawsuit by 18-year-old Casey Edwards against the state echoes the views of educators who have predicted hundreds of teacher layoffs if officials don’t use \$700 million in federal cash earmarked by Congress mostly for schools.

If the governor can’t be cut out of the process, it said, then state lawmakers should be able to spend the money anyway.

“We feel this is an important issue for the school children of South Carolina and it needs to be decided quickly,” said attorney Dwight Drake.

Edwards, a Chapin High School senior, said she wants other students around the state to get the same top-notch education she did. She realized the disparity, she said, while attending a summer school program for gifted and talented students, where she watched the documentary “Corridor of Shame” on the state’s poor, rural schools.

National

DES MOINES, Iowa — A mystery is unfolding in the world of college fundraising: During the past few weeks, at least eight universities have received gifts totaling nearly \$45 million, and the schools had to promise not to try to find out the giver’s identity.

One school went so far as to check with the IRS and the Homeland Security Department just to make sure a \$1.5 million gift didn’t come from illegal sources.

“In my last 28 years in fundraising ... this is the first time I’ve dealt with a gift that the institution didn’t know who the donor is,” said Philip D. Adams, the university advancement vice president at Norfolk State University, which received \$3.5 million.

The gifts ranged from \$8 million at Purdue to \$1.5 million donated to the University of North Carolina at Asheville. The University of Iowa received \$7 million; the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the University of Maryland at College Park got \$6 million each; the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs was given \$5.5 million.

World

NEW DELHI — It takes a month to elect a new leader in the world’s largest democracy.

In remote farming villages and sprawling concrete cities, tens of millions of Indians voted Thursday amid a deeply fractured political scene largely empty of national issues. The election won’t wrap up until mid-May — and there may not be a new government selected until early June — but a series of bloody guerrilla attacks and blazing summertime temperatures failed to keep voters away from the polls.

Early estimates indicated a fairly heavy turnout, with most states reporting more than 60 percent of eligible voters casting their ballots, Deputy Election Commissioner R. Balakrishnan told reporters. More than 140 million people were eligible to vote Thursday.

The vote was the first of five phases in which a total of some 714 million people — more than 10 times the entire French population — will be eligible to go to the polls.

Thursday also saw more than three dozen attacks by Maoist fighters in scattered rural areas across eastern and central India. The violence left at least 17 people dead — including police, soldiers, polling officials and civilians — and three election officials were kidnapped.

While the rebels, known as Naxalites, have long fought the government in a bloody insurgency, the intensity of the attacks came as a surprise on a day when tens of thousands of security forces were deployed.

— The Associated Press

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WHERE IN THE WORLD WILL OUR ENERGY COME FROM?

This presentation will describe and evaluate the challenges, technical, political, and economic, involved with widespread adoption of renewable energy technologies.

This involves the twin problems of getting energy while simultaneously minimizing carbon dioxide emissions. Nate Lewis is a leading expert in the subject of energy policy and was recently quoted extensively in an article on the subject in Newsweek magazine. The Discovery Channel is working on a feature involving him presenting the issues pertaining to how we will solve this dilemma.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009
JONES PHYSICAL SCIENCE CENTER
4:00PM—ROOM 210

DR. NATHAN LEWIS

Dr. Nathan Lewis is the George L. Argyros Professor of Chemistry at California Institute of Technology where he has been a faculty member since 1988. Dr. Lewis received his Ph.D in Chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981.

He received the Fresenius Award in 1990, the American Chemical Society Award in Pure Chemistry in 1991, the Orton Memorial Lecture Award in 2003, the Princeton Environmental Award in 2003 and the Michael Faraday Medal of the Royal Society of Electrochemistry in 2008.

His research interests include light-induced electron transfer reactions, both at surfaces and in transition metal complexes, surface chemistry and photochemistry of semiconductor/liquid interfaces.

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Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009

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Steve Helber / The Associated Press

Runners sign a remembrance banner prior to the start of a 3.2 mile run in honor of the 32 victims of the April 16, 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech on the campus in Blacksburg.



Steve Helber / The Associated Press

Virginia Tech student Kevin Sterne, who was injured in the Virginia Tech shooting two years ago, looks up at balloons released in remembrance of the 32 victims.

Va. Tech students mark 2nd anniversary with run

Blacksburg community remembers 32 victims of shooting with 3.2 mile race, candlelight vigil

Sue Lindsey
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Wounded by a gunman who sprayed bullets through their German class at Virginia Tech, Katelyn Carney and Derek O'Dell worked together to bar the door so he couldn't return.

With memories of the worst mass shooting in U.S. history still fresh in their minds, they and many of the other students hurt that day returned to campus Thursday to mark the second anniversary of the slayings.

Carney, who graduated in December, ran a 3.2-mile race to honor the 32 people killed April 16, 2007, by student Seung Hui-Cho, who also took his own life.

"This is where it matters," she said as she and a friend prepared to run.

O'Dell, who walked the course, called the experience bittersweet.

"We're celebrating their lives, but remembering, too," he said. "It's difficult, but I think it's important."

Engineering student Fred Cook jumped out a second-story window in Norris Hall as his professor, Liviu Librescu, was gunned down while he barred Cho from

entering his classroom. He hurt his ankle, but took up running when he recovered and participated in Thursday's race.

"Not a day goes by that we don't think about it," Cook said. "This increased sense of awareness by everyone certainly makes it more acute for us."

Most of the 12 injured students still on campus joined about 4,300 people who raced around the main section of campus on the bright, sunny morning. The event began with the release of balloons — 32 white, followed by hundreds in the school colors of maroon and orange — and chants of "Let's Go, Hokies."

The mood was upbeat as students crowded around a table to sign a message banner before the race.

Suzanne Grimes, whose son Kevin Sterne was injured, was impressed that nearly all of the runners were students, some of whom weren't on campus two years ago.

"They came out and showed their respect," she said.

More than 2,000 people gathered later for a more somber event to remember the accomplishments of the 27 students and five faculty members killed.

"While the tragedy of April 16, 2007, touched us all, we know that 32 families continue to confront the deepest of all losses — the loss of a loved one, the loss of a life well-lived, and the loss of a bright and promising future," university President Charles Steger told the crowd.

Five of the injured students read passages during the

ceremony. One, Colin Goddard, read an old Celtic prayer that said in part: "Be gentle as you walk with grief."

"This is extremely, extremely sad," said Holly Sherman, whose daughter Leslie Sherman was killed.

But she said it was helpful to see other family members again.

"We're sharing some feelings," she said. "There are benefits to having a day like this."

About 100 relatives of victims and injured students returned for the memorial ceremonies — a few more than last year, according to Debbie Day, head of the school's Office of Recovery and Support. Many still find it too painful to return, said Joseph Samaha, whose daughter Reema Samaha died.

Classes were canceled, but the response to the "3.2 for 32" race was so great that the school also delayed opening offices until midmorning to avoid traffic jams.

Events also included an open house in a new peace center that occupies a refurbished classroom wing where most of the victims died. The final event was a candlelight vigil at dusk.

Geraldine Adams, Leslie Sherman's grandmother, came from Kennewick, Wash., and found the experience healing.

"I'm so in awe of Virginia Tech," she said. "I saw all these people with pain on their faces. It fills you with humility."

INTERVIEW • Continued from 1

shows. My number one advice would be to be able to clearly define what your goals are and the value that you will bring to that particular company. Also be sure to research the organization. People want to hire people who want to work for the company and are not just "job seekers." After 15 years of interviewing people, I know this. More importantly make sure to develop relationships with professionals, not your computer. You need to make connections. Internships are always a good option. Volunteering your time even if it's for free really pays off. Trust me. You need to be able to create your own opportunities.

Q: If students wanted to contact you to use your products what should they do?

A: Please go to our Web site, which is www.interviewangel.com. You can check out our products, which make great graduation gifts. I will even, for just the University of South Carolina students, give you a \$20 coupon off our products from now until the end of May. There will be a link called Gamecocks on our Web site in order for students to do this. It really is a great way to help students when they graduate to know what to do in the real world. Even if it's just a quick question you can always send us an e-mail and we will respond.

Comments on this story?
E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

BUDGET • Continued from 1

Approximately 30 percent of the money the SG's discretionary allocations have goes to the executive officer's discretionary fund. Last year, \$4,000 less was in the same fund.

But in the upcoming year, student leaders said they are hoping to use this fund for the new student lobbying project, as well as the Multicultural Presidential Forum.

While Ungar said he supports both of these initiatives, he said both deserve their own separate allocations.

"For lack of a better word, it seems a little sneaky to have such a large discretionary fund," Ungar said.

But Burke, a first-year business student, said it wouldn't make sense to make line-item allocations, saying that since both initiatives were in their first years, it would be practically impossible to predict how much money they would need.

Giving more money to student organizations on campus would be a wise use of SG funds, Ungar said. Certain organizations, such as the new Carolinians Combating Poverty, could use money to accomplish their goals.

"It's a shame that student organizations don't get more money," Ungar said.

Nancy Derrick, SG finance and personnel director, said student government organizations don't spend the money they are given now.

For Yazdani, the senate's compliance is really just a barometer of trust in the organization.

"It's a vote of good faith," Yazdani said. "Simply, it's just if the senate trusts the members of the executive board to spend its money wisely."

The senate will vote on the entire budget Wednesday at its last scheduled session of the year.

Comments on this story? E-mail
gamecocknews@sc.edu

Cuts threaten SC police, child services

Agencies make major internal cuts, lose critical funding due to stimulus cash distribution

Jim Davenport
The Associated Press

Budget cuts would leave South Carolina's Highway Patrol able to handle little more than wreck calls, and the agency that looks after endangered kids would have to cut 1,095 jobs, officials said Thursday.

That's the fallout agency leaders were reeling from as state Senate budget writers told dozens of departments they'd lose 27 percent of their funding as lawmakers struggle to balance a \$5.7 billion budget.

Budget writers are trying to comply with federal laws that will let the state tap stimulus cash that South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford won't request unless it is used to pay state debt. But to keep that option open, they decided to spare public schools, colleges and health care programs from major reductions.

That saddled other agencies that make up only about \$700 million of the budget

with about \$202 million in cuts.

And those reductions come after most agencies have lost a fifth of their state cash since July. About \$1.1 billion in cuts spurred by the recession clobbered what started out as a \$7 billion budget for the current fiscal year.

It's all left agencies wondering how they'll continue to do what's required.

State Department of Public Safety Director Mark Keel said the Highway Patrol's ranks of 870 could shrink to 584.

"If we were cut to that level, about all our troopers would be doing is going from accident to accident on accident calls," Keel said.

That could lead to more deadly accidents if other law enforcement efforts fall, Keel said.

If a hurricane prompted a coastal evacuation, there wouldn't be enough troopers to monitor anything else in the state. "Every trooper that we have in the state would be assigned to that," Keel said.

It "will lead to a situation where we are not able to put eyes on the child that we need to put on the child," Social Services Department Director Kathleen Hayes said of the prospects of losing 1,095

workers — half her remaining staff. Her agency runs child protective and welfare programs as well as the state's welfare-to-work and food stamps.

Those federal programs are threatened, too, she said, because the state won't be putting enough money into running and monitoring them.

They weren't alone. State Law Enforcement Division Chief Reggie Lloyd said he'd have to drop 120 agents with cuts that sharply reduce everything from crime lab work to arson investigations.

Corrections Department Director Jon Ozmint said he would have to close at least three prisons and free more than 3,000 inmates early to keep up, even though his agency was mostly spared from the deepest reductions.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Hugh Leatherman feared some agencies would "exist in name only" and be unable to provide any services.

Others that are supposed to be money makers would end up be budget breakers.

For instance, the Revenue Department would lose \$9 million and 160 people enforcing state tax laws. But the agency said that will end up costing about \$100 million in tax collections.



Mary Ann Chastain / The Associated Press

Gov. Mark Sanford continues to refuse government funds, unless the Legislature uses them to pay off state debts.

Idealism
can survive
adulthood

Beyond shunning shoes,
students should grow up
without giving up

Walking around campus yesterday, you may have seen a bit more skin than you're used to seeing.

It wasn't bare bellies or long legs that were exposed, but feet. Many students took part in One Day without Shoes, an event sponsored by Toms Shoes that sought to raise awareness about the trials of people without shoes in developing countries.

If you ventured into downtown Columbia, though, any pedestrians you saw were likely to be laced up as usual. It's a safe guess to assume that the picture was probably the same among working adults across the nation.

This is one example out of a multitude that shows the divide between students and adults when it comes to idealist stances. Participating in something like the One Day without Shoes requires a certain amount of hope and individuality, and it seems like those qualities degrade with age. You'll find many more idealist teens and young adults than you will idealist adults in this world, and it's been that way for a long time.

So why do we lose that sense of optimism? Nobel Prize winner George Bernard Shaw famously said, "A man who is not a communist at the age of 20 is a fool. Any man who is still communist at the age of 30 is an even bigger one." Shaw was suggesting that the equity that pure communism stands for seems like a great idea when one is young, but that the idea loses its luster once one sees the impracticality of it.

The fact that the real world conflicts with perfectionist ideas is rather predictable, though. If the real world were fully compatible with our aspirations and ideals, there would be no need to stand for anything.

Perhaps we just underestimate the difficulty of sticking to idealism as we become jaded by the reality of social divisions, bureaucracy, financial burdens and myriad other complicating factors. Being an idealist now seems easy, but affecting real change is much more difficult.

Ten years down the road, do yourself a favor and reread this column and think about where you are. Did you abandon your ideals? Change your expectations for yourself? If so, it's time to fix that.

And since it's likely that you'll somehow forget to search out this column a decade from now, make a commitment to yourself today. Take stock of your ideals and what you really believe in, and tell yourself why they are important to you. Think about whether these are things that you can stick with for the rest of your life. Think about how you can make that happen.

Then hold onto them tightly and dive into whatever you need to do to accomplish your goals and bring about your ideals. When you get to the working world, you'll keep chugging alone, refusing to let any negativity make you stray from your goals and ideals.

It's something a fool wouldn't have the courage to do.



BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE

Tea Party inspiring, if overblown

Rarity of protests not
necessarily bad sign
for American politics

Americans have a love/hate relationship with protesting.

On the one hand we don't tend to do it with much energy, at least compared to other countries. The extraordinary circumstance of a big economic downturn has hardly produced public turmoil comparable to what goes on in a European capital on a normal day.

Remember being in Spain and seeing what I thought was a revolution. A huge crowd was marching through the street carrying red flags, setting off blaring sirens and exploding fireworks. As it turns out, they were firefighters protesting for more funding, and our tour guide assured us they did this all the time.

Needless to say, the sorts of protests we see here are tame by comparison. But that doesn't mean they don't get noticed. In fact, the media covers even the smallest of demonstrations. There are often more reporters covering a protest than there are protesters. Americans

aren't quick to take to the streets with grievances, but we're fascinated by people who do.

So the appearance of several legitimately-newsworthy protests here in Columbia recently has naturally created a stir. We've recently had big rallies at the State House protesting Gov. Mark Sanford's stimulus refusal, and on Tax Day we saw a demonstration against government spending.

The Tax Day protest has been the talk of the town. The common reaction seems to be shock at the audacity of conservatives and libertarians to protest something — also giddiness at the opportunity to make the kind of jokes about "teabags" that I thought were witty in high school. But some were just annoyed at the public nuisance.

I imagine that across the country "Dissent Is Patriotic" bumper stickers are being replaced with ones that say "Get A Job, Hippie!"

But beyond the fact that after eight years of anti-Bush protests it's hardly too much to ask to suffer one protest against Obama, do the critics of the anti-tax demonstrators have a point?

Many are quick to characterize the protesters as "extreme right-wingers." But the protesters' main gripe seems to be the stimulus bill. If opposing that bill

is extreme, then all the Republicans in the House are extremists. Should we expect the next Republican convention to be held in a compound in the forest?

It's true there were some strange people among the protesters. What's with the tricorn hats? They're just asking for counter-protesters to attack them dressed as Redcoats.

But protests always attract some weird people. Anti-war protests are frequently crashed by a variety of anarchists and anti-Israel activists with whom the rest of the crowd would normally never associate.

As a society, we give so much credence to public demonstrations because we appreciate people exercising their right to free speech. But ultimately the reason they're usually confined to the fringe is because our normal institutions work, albeit slowly. Supporting a candidate for office tends to be a more effective way to have your voice heard than marching in the street.

This is not to forget the fantastic successes of demonstrations for civil rights or against the draft. But those cases are the exception and not the rule. That we don't often need to protest is a sign of the health of our democracy. But it warms my heart to see them anyway. Goofy costumes and all.

Darwin, Jesus can resolve issues

Bumper sticker wars,
defensive tactics
prove counterproductive

I've noticed that I see many more of those Darwin bumper stickers — you know, with Darwin written inside of a fish — than the Jesus ones that they're supposed to spoof. Upon analyzing the Darwin sticker, I realize it doesn't make any sense.

The Jesus fish represents a belief in Jesus and in Christianity.

That's a religion. The Darwin fish represents a belief in evolution. That's a scientific theory. So I don't get the spoof. The Darwin fish assumes that all Christians don't believe in evolution, and that all evolutionists are atheists. Furthermore, evolution isn't a belief system, so why has Darwin been put in place of Jesus? Wouldn't it be more apt to make a Dawkins fish

or even a fish that doesn't have anything in it?

I understand that the evolution and creationism debate often divides atheists from theists, but assuming that all people on either side feel a particular way is just wrong. The polarizing misconception that the religious can't be scientific is evident on this campus as well. Why, for the love of God and Dawkins, did the Pastafarian club have to schedule the debate concerning the existence of God on Darwin day?

The simple truth is that evolution and religion are not mutually exclusive. If atheists believe that proof for evolution equates to irrefutable proof against God, then they are wrong. The sad thing is that many theists believe this as well, so they denounce the evidence for evolution because they believe it is not compatible with religion.

I suggest that at least the Christians and atheists need to rethink their views on this situation. There are many ways that religion and evolution can coincide. Jay Gould's Non-Overlapping Magisteria theory is one. A view that the Bible is a

flawed work of man is another. A view that the Old Testament absorbed Babylonian creation stories is another. A view that the Bible is metaphorical in many places is another. Hell, even a fundamental view may be practical. Who says that the Earth has to be 6,000 years old, when Adam and Eve could have lived for eons in the world before death existed?

When the religious take a firm stance against theories like evolution, which are supported with overwhelming evidence, they make it harder to recruit intelligent non-believers. Thus, they build up a following of the dumb, blind and irrational. This makes some atheists more self-justified, and keeps them from accepting outside criticism to their ideas. Exactly how infinitely small was the probability of abiogenesis?

In summary, the religious must appeal to reason rather than blind belief. And atheists must realize that reason isn't everything. Oh, and they need a new bumper sticker.

The
Daily Gamecock

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IN OUR OPINION

Sanford lawsuit shows
Chapin student's guts

It's been said of more generations than just ours: Kids these days just don't seem to care where their country is headed.

But for at least one South Carolina teenager, that's not the case. Chapin High School senior Casey Edwards is filing a lawsuit that aims to effectively overturn Gov. Mark

Sanford's much-publicized partial stimulus refusal.

Her stance? It's for the schools. She says she's worried about the future of education for the sake of her siblings in the eighth and ninth grades.

Judgments of her opinion aside, her course of action is honorable. The American

court system is structured such that, when someone has a complaint against the government, he or she can enter into the political arena — if, that is, he or she has the guts.

And Casey does. It's one thing to show up to a rally — as have the protesters at the various State House gatherings of the past few weeks. It's another thing entirely to stand alone, confident in the rightness of your claim.

True, Casey is not alone ideologically. Plenty of people have spoken out against Sanford's decision. But she's the first person outside the hallowed halls of politics to take such decisive action.

Any time a young person takes this sort of initiative, it's worth taking note. It challenges us, as college students with the advantages of higher education and better connections, to consider what we're doing to back up what we believe.

Disagree with Casey Edwards? Do something about it.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu.

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author's name, year

in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author's name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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Palmetto Pans play passionate percussion

Student steel drum band performs songs from variety of genres

Ellen Meder
ASSISTANT MIX EDITOR

Four guys, two with long hair, decked out in seemingly 70s rocker garb including Raybans and naval jacket took the stage, pick up their instruments, a guitar a base and two sets of drums, and begin playing to a packed house. Within seconds though, the other 11 band members stream in, in two lines from the back of stadium style hall. All decked out in sleeker hipster wear, dark wash jeans, snappy sport coats, jean jackets and shades you might find at the Sunglass Hut. They too take their places on the crowded stage, bobbing and swaying enthusiastically to the driving music. Then there is a sudden explosion of Caribbean flavor and flair. Starting with the theme from Super Mario Brothers and quickly moving into a very recognizable arrangement of Jimmy Buffett's "Cheeseburger in Paradise,"

Thursday evening The Palmetto Pans transformed the USC School of Music's recital hall, only recognizable form the looming pipe organ behind the student steel drum band, into a grooving, high-energy concert you might find in a popular island dance hall.

Directed by Luis Rivera, a second-year music

performance master student, the band, devoted to playing the music from Trinidad and Tobago, played an hour-long set that constantly filled the room with constantly, and fantastically, loud and rhythms and melodies that gave the crowd no choice but to clap and dance along. In fact, Rivera himself warned at the beginning of one exceptional ten-minutes jam session that they musicians "would not stop until everyone is up and moving."

The steel drums, which Rivera educated the enthralled audience on throughout the show, were invented after World War II, when the two islands found themselves with a surplus of oil drums. The Palmetto Pans, which shared over twenty pans made of 55-gallon oil drums, played a mix of songs from classic steel drum fair to others with Afro-Cuban style or Reggae. The songs that really got the crowd moving though were the mostly 80s covers including Soft Cell's "Tainted Love," Modern English's "I Melt With You," and the ever-so Reggae "Red Red Wine" by UB-40.

"We get to expose this kind of music to a wide base of people outside of the school," said Rivera. "A steel band allows us island music, Caribbean, Reggae and often tunes that we all recognize form the radio."

But even on the well-known hits though the concert sounded like a blast of Carnival

DRUMS ● 8



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Reid Praxton, Luis Rivera and Drew Johnson play the three lead soprano steel drums in The Palmetto Pans on Thursday.

Sci-fi drama fails to engage viewers

Over-the-top music, cheesy effects, slow plot progression drag down production value of confused 'Knowing'

Jimmy Gilmore
STAFF WRITER

Knowing
NOW IN THEATERS

★ ★ out of ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Director: Alex Proyas

Starring: Nicholas Cage, Rose Byrne

Run Time: 121 minutes

Rating: PG-13 for disturbing images, strong language

It's hard to "know" what to make of director Alex Proyas' ("I, Robot") new film, "Knowing." All terrible puns aside, this latest end-of-the-world thriller derails miserably into a confused ideological allegory, supported by overly bombastic visuals and a script that moves like a teenager learning how to drive a stick shift.

Nicholas Cage stars as John Koestler, a college professor who has a confused relationship with God after the sudden death of his wife. When his son's elementary school opens a time capsule from the 1950s, Koestler discovers a piece of scribble predicting catastrophes that could bring about the end of the world.

The idea may seem interesting if not particularly invigorating, but "Knowing" falls prey to an uneven script that starts out as a connect-the-dots thriller and then breaks down into a bizarre religious science-fiction film.

The fault rests largely on the film's three screenwriters, who try to juggle disaster, suspense, family drama, science fiction and even small breaths of horror. The sharp turns in style feel like each writer traded off writing twenty pages at a time. Their collaboration feels both cluttered and empty.

Cage doesn't help clear the rubble. His Koestler is comprised of a handful of one-note expressions from sad to scared to pondering. In most all of them, he's frowning. For a character whose reconciliation with God provides the emotional crux for the dramatic arc, Cage is unable to make Koestler the least bit sympathetic.

To be fair, Proyas stages some compelling scenes of spectacle early in the film. One set piece in particular blends computer effects and documentary-style handheld tracks to stage a plane crash and its ensuing chaos.

It's a frightening scene, and one that the director pulls off with an astute and creative eye that is rarely felt in the rest of the work.

Instead, the insufferable music by Marco Beltrami turns every scene into a climax and the visual effects start to feel like the by-products of a cheap sci-fi flick. This would be fine if "Knowing" had a hint of fun, but any laughs are



Courtesy of MCT Campus

Nicholas Cage stars as a college professor in "Knowing."

surely lobbed at the film instead of with it.

The final act gradually becomes a stilted and remarkably uninteresting diatribe on evolution and determinism vs. religious belief. Or as "Knowing" would put, aliens vs. God.

That the film ends up rather ambiguously in the middle of its argument may seem like a positive, but it seems to invest all its belief in a heaven one minute, only to wholly switch to the aliens-begot-humanity concept the next.

The allegory fails because "Knowing" is afraid to invest in its hints of atheism, as if affirming characters' Christianity somehow creates balance. It renders the text borderline incoherent and fails to make a point.

By the second hour, any charm or mystery in this hokey concept has vanished. Proyas takes every chance to go over the top, but the hammy acting and overall cheesy production values grate far more often than they entertain.

Yes, "Knowing" even knows how to make the end of the world a tedious and painfully boring thing to sit through.

'In Plain Sight' plays up McCormack's abilities

Female lead character struggles with emotions in USA's hit show

Neal Justin
MCT Campus

If U.S. Marshal Mary Shannon had been chasing bad guys a couple of decades ago, she might have found herself taking undercover assignments at strip joints and beauty pageants. But the lead character of USA's "In Plain Sight," which returns tonight for its second season, is a female crime fighter of her time, one who favors blue jeans and boots, initiates one-night stands, bosses around her partner and gulps vodka straight out of the bottle. She also has more baggage than Molly Brown.

Even more than TNT's high-buzz female-driven series "The Closer" and "Saving Grace," "Sight" presents viewers with a complex protagonist whose job with the witness-protection agency is only slightly more challenging than her attempt to maintain her sanity. It's one of TV's richest roles, tailor-made for the multitasking Mary McCormack, an actress who specializes in exhibiting strength without sacrificing one iota of femininity.

McCormack, who received a Tony nomination last year for her work in the romp "Boeing, Boeing," said the show owes a lot to "The Closer" and "Saving Grace."

"Audiences have responded to those characters who are strong and complex and not girly," she said. "We've benefited from that."

"Sight" ups the ante in a dramatic season premiere that abandons the usual

whodunit formula.

Shannon must deal not only with the trauma of killing a potential rapist last season, but also with her personal history, which includes a father sent away for bank robbery, an alcoholic mother (an unhinged Lesley Ann Warren) and an insecure sister (newcomer Nichole Hiltz) tangled in a drug deal. The result is a series of living-room confrontations straight out of "A Long Day's Journey Into Night."

It's not the first time the series has successfully veered off-course. Last season's finest hour dove deep into the emotional turmoil a family must go through when shuttled into witness protection, with an Emmy-worthy performance by Wendell Pierce from "The Wire." Perhaps the most entertaining episode played out like a one-reel Western, as Shannon and her desert-dry partner, Marshall Mann (Fred Weller), found themselves holed up in an abandoned convenience store surrounded by snipers, forcing them to examine the depth of their platonic relationship.

"I like that David Maples is not doing superheroes," said McCormack, referring to the show's creator, who wrote for "Huff," another show about a dysfunctional family. "He refuses to write about things that are two-dimensional. There's a lot of talk about Mary being a bad-ass, but it's wonderful that he's also making a show for adults. That's so refreshing."

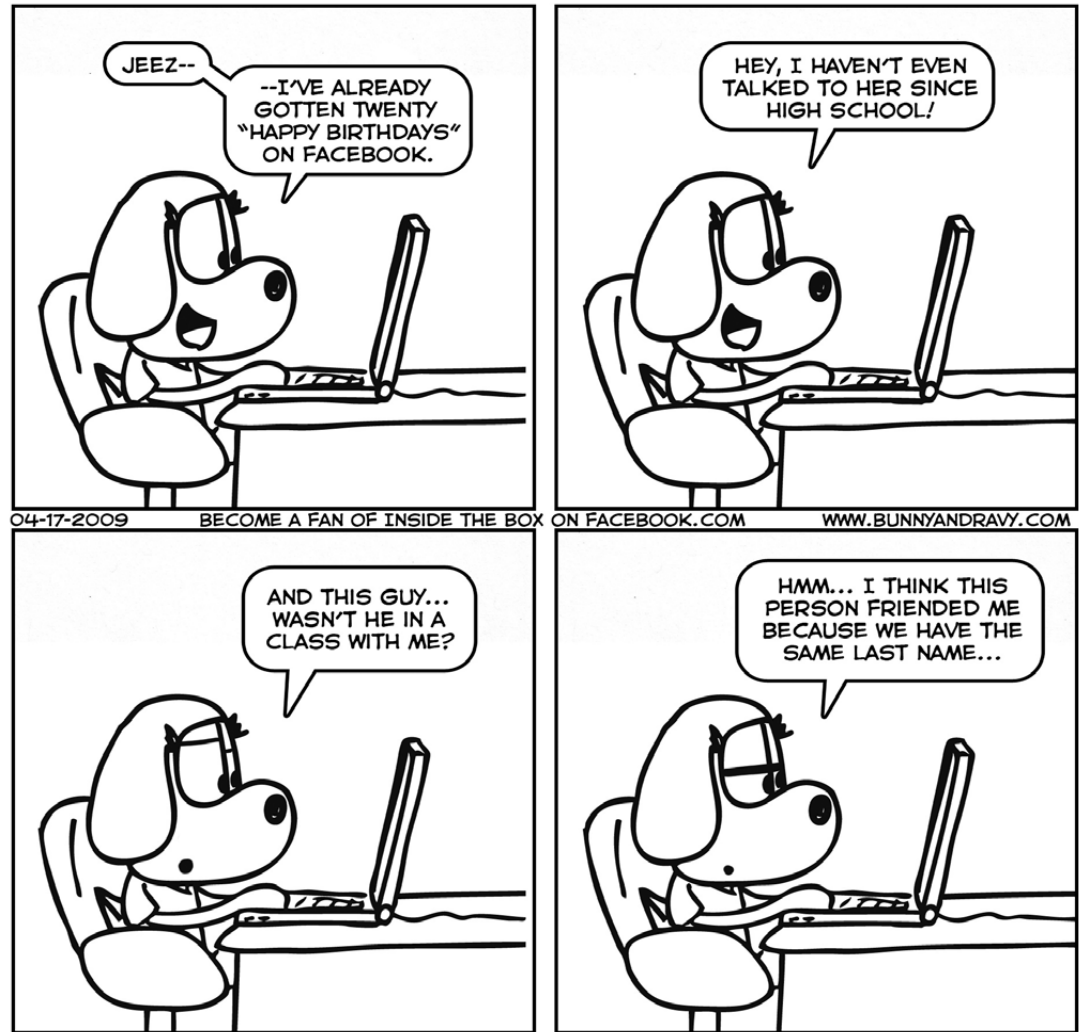
Weller also praises Maples for taking chances that may not be welcomed on network television.

"There's a possibility of alienating the audience

SIGHT ● 8

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

Inside the Box ♦ By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock



Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



PhD ♦ By Jorge Chan



HOROSCOPES

ARIES A secret love had better stay that way for a while. This is especially true if it's a crush on an older person. Don't even tell your friends about it.

TAURUS The policymakers don't seem to have all the pertinent information. Don't stand by in silence; speak up. Your experience needs to be shared with them.

GEMINI Don't simply ask about the money; run out the numbers yourself. The others are likely to make it look much better than it is.

CANCER Nerves are still a bit on edge. You wouldn't be judged harshly if you simply took off somewhere by yourself, or

with a very dear friend.

LEO The busier you stay, the more money you'll generate. This is a wonderful thing. You'll make some new friends, whom are especially fascinating.

VIRGO Concentrate on a challenging assignment. You can figure it out with the help of an expert who's far away. It's worth the long-distance call.

LIBRA Finishing the job shouldn't be too difficult. Wrap it up so you and your sweetheart can celebrate tonight. Do something luxurious but inexpensive.

SCORPIO Give yourself plenty of time. As you well know, it's

rarely necessary to react emotionally.

SAGITTARIUS Identify what you don't need and cross those items off your list. You're very good at solving puzzles.

CAPRICORN They say you're a stern teacher. You don't suffer fools gladly, but you can be compassionate and gentle.

AQUARIUS You're being watched like a hawk to see if you make wise decisions. This is where all your planning comes in.

PISCES Make sure you know what you're after. Write down any numbers or codes you'll need to identify it. You'd hate to get the wrong item.

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Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 04/16/09

1	5	4	3	2	8	9	7	6
8	2	7	5	9	6	3	4	1
9	3	6	4	7	1	5	8	2
2	6	9	1	4	7	8	3	5
4	7	3	6	8	5	1	2	9
5	8	1	9	3	2	7	6	4
7	9	8	2	1	4	6	5	3
6	1	2	8	5	3	4	9	7
3	4	5	7	6	9	2	1	8

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THE SCENE @USC

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN
8 p.m., \$10 students/ \$16 general
Drayton Hall Theater

TODAY

THE RESTORATION, THE FIRE TONIGHT, THE FOSSIL RECORD, TRANSMISSION FIELDS, LIESL DOWNEY
7:30 p.m., \$5 over 21/ \$7 under
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

COLUMBIA ALTERNACIRQUE
9:30 p.m., free
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

EVIL EMPIRE, TERRIFIC KID
8 p.m., \$7
Headliners, 700 Gervais St.

TOMORROW

OBRASKAI, FALLEN KINGS, EXAMINING EMMA, TATTERMASK, LAST DAYS PARADE
7:30 p.m., \$6 over 21/ \$8 under
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

THE POWER COMPANY PRESENTS "POWER PLANTS: A SPRING GARDEN"
7:30 p.m., \$5 students/ \$10 general
Cottingham Theatre, 1301 Columbia College Drive.

INDIE GRITS FILM FESTIVAL
2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 p.m., \$35 festival pass
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 04/17/09

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Across

1 Good-sized piece of meat
5 Play-of-color gem
9 To the left, at sea
14 Volcanic output
15 White House staffer
16 Medium for FDR's fireside chats
17 Sign of things to come
18 Start of many a corny joke
20 O'Hara's estate
21 Flavorful
22 Canadian tribe
23 Neighbor of Swe.
25 Scat singer Fitzgerald
27 Start of a trucker's communication
34 Crude in a gusher
35 Sea World performer
36 Heredity units
38 "Metamorphoses" poet
40 Like milk on the floor
43 Outside, as a chance
44 Knot again
46 Classic grape soda
48 "Fourscore and seven years ..."
49 Start of a sound man's mike check
53 Cancún cash
54 Pampering place
55 Manuscript encl.
58 Remove by percolation
61 Kept from swelling
65 Start of a newsboy's cry
67 City near Sacramento
68 Jewelry fastener
69 High-performance Camaro
70 Finished
71 Church belief
72 Bulletin board sticker
73 Monthly expense

Down

1 Opening for a coin
2 Tibet's Dalai ____
3 State with conviction
4 Fruit high in potassium
5 Acom producers
6 ____ colada
7 Big fusses
8 Hannibal the Cannibal
9 Genesis craft
10 Breakfast stack
11 Olfactory reception
12 Pilaf grain
13 Casino gratuity
19 NASCAR's Petty or Busch
24 Gives a thumbs-up
26 Fall behind
27 One lacking manners
28 Fastener for Rosie
29 Upper crust
30 Music genre in the 'hood
31 Jewelry in the 'hood
32 China's Zhou ____
33 King's tenure

Solutions from 04/16/09

E	S	S	T	W	O	S	S	P	R	I	G	S
D	E	I	E	A	R	L	A	U	R	I	E	
G	U	E	R	N	S	E	Y	I	N	S	O	L
E	R	N	E	S	T	O	S	C	A	T	N	A
R	A	N	G	E	R	S		S	E	M	I	S
S	T	A	T	U	E		A	U	D	A	C	I
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L	I	S	P		S	W	E	D	E		L	E
C	R	U	E	T		E	L	E	V	E		
D	E	R	R	I	E	R	E		E	L	A	T
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G	O	N	E	R	S		P	A	Y	M	E	N
A	P	E	R	C	U		O	R	D	E	R	S
L	E	S	S	E	E		U	L	A	N		R
E	D	S	E	L	S		F	O	Y	T		S

37 Unhealthful skyline
obscurer
39 Scatter
41 Give permission
42 2007 William P. Young
Christian-themed best-seller
45 Summer in France
47 AOL, for one
50 Cruise ship stop
51 "You can't get out this way" sign

52 One whose job is fitting?
55 Religious offshoot
56 Wheel shaft
57 Ollie's sidekick
59 Gillette razor
60 Gator's cousin
62 Sheltered inlet
63 Garden site in Genesis
64 Malicious gossip
66 Suitable



The fifteen members of The Palmetto Pans perform with pizzazz while audience members, like Bushmon, celebrate the songs by leading Congo lines.

DRUMS ● Continued from 6

not only on stage, but also in the crowd. The audience, about half students and half upstanding citizens with graying hair, was constantly up and moving in the aisles. Surprisingly, the older the audience member, the more likely it was they were grooving to the sometimes smooth, sometimes upbeat songs. One man in an ever-so apropos Hawaiian button-up shirt, who goes by the adopted Jamaican name Bushmon, started the evening with free-style dancing on the stage and very soon started a Congo line in the aisles.

Drew Johnson, a third-year percussion performance student, who is one of the

three lead pans along with Rivera and fourth-year percussion performance student Reid Praxton, started playing guitar with The Palmetto Pans his freshman year and soon turned to the steel drums.

“I’m in it for the musical experience with friends,” Johnson said. “And it’s a pretty laid back atmosphere too.”

One of the more interesting original pieces was “Backbone,” arranged by music school jazz professor Bert Ligon. The smoother grooving piece features impressive solos by Johnson

as well as electric guitarist Andy Bell, a second-year music student.

After nearly all the songs had been played and Rivera had done his best to lovingly introduce the audience members to each special instrument the group had been pounding on, the stage

lights dimmed to black for just a moment. When they came up, before band even touched one drum the audience knew they would be singing along to Michael Jackson as each member wore a single bedazzled glitter glove.

The Palmetto Pans will next perform at Green Quad’s Earth Day celebration “Do it in the Dark” from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

SIGHT ● Continued from 6

when you see their flaws and tempers,” he said. “Those kinds of risks are easier on cable.”

This season promises more tension when Mom gets into a physical altercation with a police officer, triggering a stint in rehab, while Sis goes back to school. Joshua Molina, who played McCormack’s love interest on “The West Wing,” is on board for several episodes.

But the main reason to keep tuning in is McCormack, who has scampered to the A-list of TV talent.

“You’ve got an actress who has a comedic ability, but can also be cynical and edgy,” Weller said. “She’s got a lot of defenses, but there’s also a soft, vulnerable underbelly. That’s always going to be interesting.”

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Sam Bennett / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Junior pitcher Blake Cooper (4-3, 4.57 ERA) will start the last game of the series against the Tigers on Sunday.



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Freshman pitcher Nolan Belcher (2-1, 3.73 ERA) will make his seventh start of the season on Saturday.

Auburn on deck for Carolina

Weekend series against Tigers likely to determine post-season fate of struggling Gamecocks

Sam Davis
STAFF WRITER

South Carolina emerged successful from last weekend's series against Ole Miss — a much-needed SEC victory. But after continuing the stellar play by trouncing College of Charleston on Tuesday night, the Gamecocks fell to The Citadel in extra innings on the following night, slowing the momentum that the team was building.

This weekend, USC hosts the Auburn Tigers, and as the two very similar teams collide, another hotly contested weekend of SEC baseball is expected.

"Their numbers are very similar to ours in a lot of ways," USC coach Ray Tanner said. "Our record is about the same. We have to be ready to play and play well. Our guys know the numbers."

Tanner is right. Both teams enter the weekend with a conference record of 7-8, placing both in fourth place in each respective SEC division. In the batting

average column, USC is hitting .304 as a team while the Tigers are right behind them at .296.

The teams' on-base percentages match up identically at .390 and they are separated by just seven RBIs on the year. Yet as Tanner points out, both the Gamecocks and the Tigers will have their strengths heading into the series.

"Auburn is a team that's hitting home runs. They're hitting lots of homeruns," Tanner said. "They've had some pitching woes, but they're a good club."

The fact that Auburn is hitting a lot of homeruns is actually an understatement at this point. The Tigers lead the SEC in homeruns with 79, just three ahead of Alabama but at least 11 more than any other team in the conference and 13 ahead of the Gamecocks, who are No. 4.

Tanner also hit the nail on the head in mentioning the Tigers' pitching woes. Auburn currently sits in last place in team ERA on the year, giving up an average of 5.90 runs per game. The next worst team in the category is almost 30 points better.

The Tigers are also last in the conference in opposing batting average at .321. This is a Carolina specialty thus far, as the Gamecocks sit on top of the SEC with a stellar .252 opposing batting average.

The Gamecocks' weekend pitching rotation will remain the same against Auburn, as they have been seeing more and more success as the year has grown older.

It will be sophomore Sam Dyson followed by freshman Nolan Belcher and junior Blake Cooper on Sunday. Each Gamecock starter will boast a better ERA than his opponent.

Belcher has turned into quite the young ace for Carolina. In his past two outings, the southpaw has hurled 17.1 innings and surrendered just two runs, earning himself a couple of victories. Both wins came against nationally ranked SEC foes in Arkansas and Ole Miss.

Amidst a power conference in which anybody can beat anybody, Tanner is well aware of the importance of each weekend series.

"We're all jostling for position. We're all trying to stay in the hunt, all of us," Tanner said. "There a few teams out front now that have a little bit of a cushion but a lot of teams in the league are fighting their way to the very end."

The series will begin on Friday night at 7 p.m. at Carolina Stadium.

Comments on this story? E-mail sageckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

Fans missing out on college hockey finals

Bemidji State's run to Frozen Four should have been more important than spring games

One of the greatest occurrences in the history of American sports happened a week ago tomorrow, and about 18 people have noticed.

In last Saturday's national collegiate hockey championship game in Washington D.C., top-ranked Boston University trailed upstart underdog Miami of Ohio 3-1 with 59.5 seconds remaining in the game. Hope looked all but lost for the Terriers.

42.1 seconds later, the game was tied, as BU's Zach Cohen and Nick Bonino both found the back of the net with time running out. Twelve minutes into the proceeding overtime period, BU had a 4-3 win and the national championship.

Imagine if you will, this fall, Carolina is losing by two touchdowns to Tennessee with a minute left in the fourth quarter. The Gamecocks then proceed to score, recover an onside kick, and score again, all within 60 seconds, and then win the game in overtime. The statues of Stephen Garcia and Steve Spurrier would already be erected on the Horseshoe by the time the team plane got back home from Knoxville. Now, multiply that by 10 and put it on ice, and you've got what happened in D.C.



JAMES KRATCH
First-year English student

The title game was just the grand finale to a wild national tournament that featured several upsets, numerous overtime games and the most improbable Cinderella team ever — the Bemidji State Beavers, who, as a No. 16 seed, stunned traditional powers Notre Dame and Cornell on their way to becoming the lowest seed to ever make the Frozen Four. The BSU run was so unexpected and shocking that their pep band had agreed to do a gig over the Frozen Four weekend, rendering them unavailable to be in the nation's capital, which resulted in George Mason's pep band "adopting" BSU for the weekend, one miraculous long shot showing support for another, leading the charge for the Beavers' cheering section in their 4-1 semifinal loss to Miami. Not bad for a school with an enrollment of 4,900 students that sounds like it's located in India but in fact is on a lake in Minnesota.

However, very few, if any, people outside of the most hardcore college hockey followers knew about any of this. Instead, thousands of sports fans around the nation spent their time going to spring games, which is code word for "glorified football practice" or doing anything else that wasn't witnessing a sporting event that on the improbability and excitement scale was the Miracle on Ice, the 2004 ALCS, the 2005 Rose Bowl, and Rocky knocking out Ivan Drago, avenging Apollo Creed's death, and ending the Cold War all rolled into one.

Now, I'll be honest — I've never been a big hockey guy, even though I grew up an hour away from the three-time Stanley Cup champion New Jersey Devils and a free ticket to hop on a winning bandwagon because we both belonged to the same state.

However, I'm going out of my way next year to watch as many games as I can, especially since, unlike the men's basketball tournament, which often becomes chalk and boring after the first weekend, this tournament keeps on delivering great drama right down to the end.

It isn't too often in today's overhyped, oversaturated, "what happened yesterday has to be the greatest thing ever" world you get to see something that's truly historic, and a chance to see something like that is something you can't pass up.

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Golf teams to play in SEC tourney

Women hosting tournament in Blythewood, men look to improve upon last year's finish

Jonathan Battaglia
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Following a season in which they won three tournaments, the No. 11-ranked men's golf team will head to St. Simon's Island, Ga., for the SEC Championship at the Frederica Club. The tournament will start today and conclude Sunday afternoon.

They will look to continue the success they saw last year at the Frederica Club — rallying from behind to finish in second-place, with four players in the top 15. Their 54-hole total of 861 (-3) was the lowest SEC score in school history and then-sophomore George Bryan IV finished in second place individually.

"It certainly wouldn't be a surprise to anyone if we won it this year," coach Bill McDonald said. "I'd like us to have a chance on the back nine to win the tournament."

The Gamecocks will send out a lineup of George Bryan IV, Mark Silvers III, Patrick Rada, Wesley Bryan and Sam Braver — a combination that has produced a tournament title at the Schenkel E-Z-Go Invitational and a third-place finish at the Hootie at Bulls Bay.

"George Bryan has had an absolutely stellar season," McDonald said of the juniors' two runner-up finishes. "For us to win, he's

going to have to perform."

Alabama enters as the defending champion after shooting 853 (-11) in 2008, eight strokes ahead of the second-place Gamecocks. Coach McDonald said the field is strong from top to bottom, starting with No. 1 ranked Georgia Bulldogs.

"The SEC has seven teams in the top 25," McDonald said. "So, obviously we're going to have to be on the top of our game to win."

Georgia has won three of eight SEC championships since 2001. Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee have each won one conference title during that time.

The women will play Friday through Sunday on their home course at Cobblestone Park in Blythewood in the SEC tournament. The Gamecocks will look to capitalize on the advantage they will have by playing on their home course.

Last season, at Tennessee National Golf Club in Loudon, Tenn., the Gamecocks took fifth place with the help of then-sophomore Benedicte Toumpsin shooting three straight rounds of even-par 72.

Florida is the defending SEC champion after shooting an 874, 17 shots ahead of runner-up Arkansas

Tee times run from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday, and from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Sunday. The tournament is free and open to the public.

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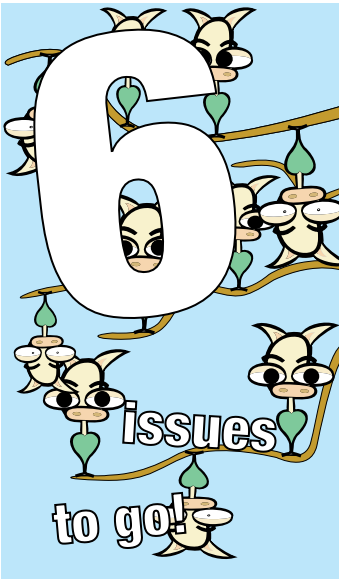
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